

Information obtained from HBM.

### MIDWAY POST OFFICE

The mail that cary by horseback through Provo Canyon usually had been carried across the continents by wagons following trails that began where rail lines ended. The co-op stores operated by Bishop David Van Wagoner was a central meeting spot in the community, and soon became the location where people waited for the mails. So, when the post office was officially established in 1893 the Van Wagoner store was the logical post office and the proprietor of the ochoice for postmaster.

Bishop Van Wagonen served as postmaster until 1897 when Mary E. Watkins was appointed postmistress. Her office was located in a small frame store building operated by her husband, William Watkins. They continued their store and post office until 1918 when poor health and failing eyesight forced them to retire.

Because Midway was only a fourthclass post office, wages were paid only on a percentage of cancelled stamps, and the pay was small, usually averaging 32 to \$37 a month, with a little more at Christmas time.

When the Watkins' retired there was no immediate successor who wanted to work at the wage offered, and it appeared that the post office might be closed. However a young widow, Mrs. Clara Vail Bigler, was encouraged to accept the assignment, which she did. The post office was moved to an old school building on the southeast corner of the public square which had been completely renovated for the new post office. "



BLOCK 22

Information obtained from G. J.

### THE MIDWAY POST OFFICE

The Post Office was operated by William Watkins who was blinded in one eye, and had one hand missing. His wife operated the little store they had in connection with the Post Office. Their house was to the side of the Post Office. They sold stamps and money orders and delivered the mail. The mail was carried by horse and buggy over a route including all of Midway, Charleston, and Heber. There was another route that went to Daniels, Center Creek, and Lake Creek. Still another went from Heber to Park City which carried the accumulated mail from these other routes to Park City where it was put on the train. The location of the Post Office would have been between Merle Madsen's and Lethe Tatges houses. "

*From Lorna Van Wagoner & Mrs Iota(Geo) Johnson  
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